

A2012-49

Evelyn Heinevetter
Waverly Town Council Member
Waverly Cemetery Commissioner
Concerned Citizen
P.O. Box 62
Waverly Washington 99039
October 25, 2011

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POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

I am appealing to you "The Postal Rate Commission" to keep our Waverly Post Office open. I feel that the Rural Post Offices are not receiving the attention that they are due. Rural citizens have the same rights as urban citizens to have a Post Office near by. We as rural citizens deserve as much attention from "The United States Postal Service" as those in urban areas.

I do realize that the Postal Department is having financial difficulties like all of us. Nevertheless, closing rural post offices is not the answer. By stopping Saturday deliveries, raising the postal rates, fixing the problem with their retirement fund, cutting hours, and **combining urban post offices** (where persons do not have to drive so far) seems to make far more sense than closing our Rural Post Offices. By closing our Rural Post Office, you are putting another financial burden on us. To go to the nearest Post Office it will be a 12 or more mile trip for me and more for others. The cost of America's Rural Post Office network has nothing to do with the financial condition the Postal Service finds itself. This was documented in a September 30, Postal Regulatory Commission decision.

The document posted in our Post Office stated that our Post Office was being studied for possible closing or consolidation due to the following reason: **Lease amount requested for renewal is above FMV.**

A. The rent for our post office is only \$350. per month. The owner has to pay electricity, water, trash, heating and upkeep. Plus he does the snow removal. Can a rural route carrier do a route for \$350 per month? Will he shovel snow? If cluster boxes were to be placed who will maintain them? Who will shovel the snow? Locks freeze in our area! Rural boxes are often vandalized and mail is stolen. Who will fix them when they are damaged? With the high cost of gasoline and with people being out of work the crime rate will become even more prevalent.

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1. The pre closure meeting called by the Postal Department was poorly planned. **"A weekday at 4 until 6 pm" !**
 - A. The Mayor and Town Council were not contacted by the postal department prior to this meeting.
 - B. This meeting was scheduled at an inconvenient time. Parents with school children had after school activities. Farmers were in a critical planting time. Persons that work out of the area were not able to attend as distance would not allow them to be back in Waverly at that time. It is 1-hour drive from Spokane. This meeting was closed at exactly 6 pm.
 - C. The personnel from the Post Office were very evasive in their answers. It was as if they already had their minds made up that our Post Office was being closed.
 - D. Not all questions were recorded by the person recording them. I personally asked them the following questions and did not get a answer and or they were not recorded.
 1. I asked why the town mayor and council were not contacted before this meeting. No answer and not recorded.
 2. Have you brought a financial statement with line items showing projected savings, including additional expenses for our USPS for making changes in our post office? I believe it states in the Postal Operations Manual (POM) 123.612. that you should have these items with you ? Answer was no and their question back to me was "just where did I get this information!" Not recorded.
2. Many of the facts and items that were presented in the binder that was posted at the Post Office after this first meeting were incorrect and improper.
 - A. Photos of the back and sides of the building where the Post Office is located in were not essential. They were placed there to make the building area and our town look bad. Our Post Office is always clean and neat. These photos were uncalled for.
 - B. It stated that the majority of the residents are Senior citizens, this is incorrect. I am sure this was surmised, as it was mainly the senior citizens that were able to attend the pre closing meeting.
 - C. It also stated that the post master position will become vacant when our postmaster was reassigned on April 01 2012 and that since the

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postmaster vacancy an OIC has been installed to operate the Post Office. We still have our same postmaster. Either that date is incorrect or information is incorrect.

D. Is there a current rent contract for the rent of the post office and how long is it for? No answer and not recorded.

This Statement on the posting dated 10/05/2011 Docket # 1386705-99039

111. Effect on Employees.

The postmaster position will become vacant when the postmaster is reassigned on April 01, 2012. The noncareer postmaster relief (PMR) may be separated from the postal service. No other Postal service employee will be adversely affected. Since the postmaster vacancy a

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has been installed to operate the office. (This does not make any sense either as we still have the same postmaster!)

1V. Economic Savings:

This item includes the postmasters salary as a savings. If he is being transferred to another office his salary will still be on the payroll so there will be no savings there! The only savings will be the rental cost of the building at \$350. per month and this will not pay the salary, expense and gasoline for a rural route carrier!

The Town of Waverly is the second smallest incorporated town in the State of Washington. Our post office is and has been the heart and hub of our community since 1879. That being 122 years. It is the glue that binds our community together. We are a small town of 110 persons with no storefront businesses. Our Town Hall is only open 2 days per week for a limited time. All notices regarding the Town, Fire department, Cemetery District etc. are posted in a shared entryway that serves our Post Office and a private residence. We also post "danger to the community" items such as cougar sightings in the town, thefts in the area, Beware of the moose that have taken up residency in the town in the winter, suspicious persons in the area and etc. Our park is located very close to our Post Office and all of our local children have been told if anyone bothers them, they are to run to the post office, as it is the safest place with the Postmaster being there. Delivery people such as Florists, Real estate, even United Parcels and Fed Ex stop at our Post Office when they are not able to locate someone. We also have some home businesses that depend on our Post Office to get their products

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mailed.

Every family makes at least a daily visit to the post office.

In the winter, the roads in our area become treacherous and many of us do not drive far when it is bad but we are able to make it to the Post Office and the Postal Service always seems to get through somehow. If the rural route drivers cannot get down a road, you are out of luck getting your mail until it clears up and sometime that takes a week or more for the side roads to be cleared. At least by being able to get our Post Office we can get our bills and pay them. Not all of us have the computer system to do this for us.

Our incorporated town of Waverly cannot afford to loose our zip code as the department of revenue at both the State and Federal level use the zip code to issue revenue to our town.

Please remember, that by closing Post Offices in rural farming areas, the Postal Service is putting another burden on the people who raise the crops that feed our country. **Rural America is who keeps food on our tables.** The price to society of closing small rural Post Offices is very high, since without its Post Offices such rural communities do not survive. Our Post Offices are the heart of our small towns. They not only serve the small town but also the neighboring farmers. Our Farmers are having a difficult time now with the cost of fuel and chemicals going up every day. **When we loose our small towns and our farmers in this great country, we loose America.** Please rethink the closing of our Waverly Post Office and all rural post offices. **“The Founding Fathers”** of our great country created the United States Postal Service with the intention of “binding the nation together”. By attacking Americas Rural Post Offices the United States Postal Service is “Attacking the Heart of America”. Is this equal justice!

All 110 People of the Town of Waverly want our Post Office kept open.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Evelyn Heinevetter".

Evelyn Heinevetter